College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University | *New York, N.Y. 10032*

DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY 620 West 168th Street

November 19, 1968

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12th Street
New York, New York 10014

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

My apologies for the long delay in replying to your letter of 24 October. It seems that there are as many scientific meetings in the Fall as in the Spring, and my correspondence is terribly behind.

I am afraid you will be very disappointed in the manuscript which is about to appear in the publication of the INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. It is strictly factual, and limits itself to our own observations, fairly carefully. It is primarily a feasibility study which we did on the bullets and ammunition to try to find out for ourselves whether it was possible for a single bullet to do all the things attributed to 399.

Unfortunately, the newspaper report is a mixture of speculative conversation, intermingled with factual material from the article.

I cannot explain any discrepancies between our findings and those of others, since I am not familiar with their research methods and did not even see the motion picture to which you refer. You will be interested that a letter from Professor Thompson and another one from his book publisher arrived in the same mail as yours. They are buried in a pile of unfinished correspondence before me, and since the specific gravity of your notepaper is obviously better than theirs, your letter has surfaced first, and I am replying to it at once.

I will send you a reprint as soon as they arrive, which will probably be a few more weeks, judging from past experience.

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher

With regard to the capability of the rifle, in the hands of amateur marksman, I can only say that we tried to simulate Mr. Oswald's situation by undertaking deliberate and repetitive "dry-firing" practice until we were thoroughly familiar with the operation of the rifle, and then took advantage of the near-perfect arrangements which he had made for himself in his shooting position. It was as surprising to us, as it was to you, how quickly we learned to do what was necessary.

Glad to learn of your continued interest.

Sincerely,

John K. Lattimer, M.D., Sc.D.
Professor of Urology
Chairman, Department of Urology

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